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Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Sugar: World Production Supply and Distribution

November 2010

Overview

Since the May forecast, 2010/11 world sugar production is down, consumption is up and prices are increasing. Estimated surplus production is down from a forecast 6.2 million tons to an estimated 3 million tons. Prices are increasing due to tightening supply and to appreciation of the Brazilian real.

World sugar production for the 2010/11 marketing year is estimated at 161.9 million tons, raw value, down 1.9 million tons from the May 2010 forecast. Consumption is forecast at 158.9 million tons, up 1.2 million tons from the May forecast. Exports are estimated at 51.8 million tons, down 1.8 million tons from May; and ending stocks are estimated at 26.5 million tons, down 564,000 tons.

World production and trade are highlighted by lower production in Brazil, at 39.4 million tons, down 1.3 million. Brazil accounts for 24 percent of world production, while Asia accounts for 37 percent. Production in Asia is down by 1.4 million tons to 60.3 million. Production in India is estimated at 25.7 million ton, up one million, China at 12.7 million tons, down 1.4 million, and Thailand at 6.9 million tons, down 300,000 tons. Production in the EU-27 is estimated at 14.8 million tons up 900,000 tons. Exports from Brazil for 2010/11 are estimated at 26.9 million tons, down 1.6 million tons from the May forecast. Thailand is estimated to export 4.7 million tons, down 500,000 from May, and shipments from Australia are pegged at 3.8 million tons, up 50,000.

The EU-27 is now expected to be the world's largest sugar importer in 2010/11 at 3.6 million tons but the third largest net importer at 2.1 million tons. The largest net importers in 2010/11 are reckoned to be; Russia at 2.95 million tons, Indonesia at 2.9 million tons, and the EU at 2.1 million tons. The United States is forecast to import 1.9 million tons.

World raw sugar prices last May, ranged between 13 to 15 cents/lb. This signaled the market expected both Brazilian and Indian production to finish strong and cover demand before the end of the 2009/10 marketing year. However as the summer progressed prices slowly but steadily edged higher responding to a perceived lower than expected surplus going into 2010/11 and to significant US currency devaluation against the Brazilian real. Dry weather caused shortage in the supplying countries of Brazil and Thailand. Drought in Russia and flooding in Pakistan reduced production and increased demand for imports in those countries. Closing NY March contract number 11 raw sugar prices at beginning November were over 31 cents/lb.

Highlights of the Major Producers

Brazil, India, Thailand, and China account for 52 percent of world production and 53 percent of world exports.

Brazil

Brazilian sugar cane production for 2010/11 is estimated at 639 million tons, down 21 million tons from the May estimate but up 36 percent from the previous year of 603 million. Production in the center-south region is estimated at 575 million tons, down 21 million tons from May. The excessive dry weather combined with the humidity thru mid-September adversely affected the size and development of the crop.

Sugarcane production for the north-northeast is unchanged from the May forecast and remains at 64 million tons. The crush started in October and is expected to be completed by the end of March.

The sugarcane breakdown for sugar/ethanol matches the trend for higher sugar demand due to continued strong prices in the international markets. Total sucrose (total reducing sugar, TRS) content destined for sugar and ethanol production is estimated at 44.7 and 55.3 percent, similar to the previous estimate.

Total sugar production for 2010/11 is estimated at 39.4 million tons, raw value, up 3 million tons raw value, from 2009/10.

Estimated total ethanol production for 2010/11 at 28.75 billion liters (8 billion liters of anhydrous and 20.75 billion of hydrated ethanol), up 3.05 billion relative to 2009/10 (7 billion liters of anhydrous and 18.7 billion liters of hydrated ethanol).

According to the State of Sao Paulo Sugarcane, Sugar and Alcohol Growers Council (CONSECANA), the cumulative average sugarcane price for the state of Sao Paulo for 2010/11 (April-August) is R\$ 0.3475 kg of TRS, which is equivalent to R\$ 49.35 per ton of sugarcane.

The trend of increasing sugar prices since August has been supported by strong demand in both the domestic and international markets. Ethanol prices have also shown strength; supported by the decreased sugarcane crop, and by the fact that mills have been prioritizing sugar production as opposed to ethanol.

Brazilian sugar exports for 2010/11 are estimated at 26.85 million tons, raw value, up 2.55 million relative to the previous marketing year, as a consequence of strong sugar demand. Raw sugar exports should contribute 20.65 million tons of total exports. Refined exports should account for 6.2 million tons.

Brazilian ethanol exports for 2010/11 are estimated at 1.8 billion liters, down 1.3 billion compared to the previous marketing year (3.1 billion liters), mostly due to an expected decrease in direct exports to the U.S. and India.

Sugar ending stocks for 2010/11 are projected at 285,000 tons, raw value. Negative stocks have been balanced by the early start (March) of the sugarcane harvest in the CS region as opposed to the official beginning of the season (May).

India

Estimated sugarcane production for 2010/11 is increased to 328 million tons due to expected higher yields resulting from good monsoon rains and favorable weather conditions in major sugarcane producing regions. Consequently, centrifugal sugar production is raised to 25.7 million metric tons, this includes 420,000 tons of Khandsari sugar - a low recovery centrifugal sugar prepared by an open-pan evaporation method. Gur production is forecast at 5.6 million tons.

Estimates for centrifugal sugar production for 2009/10 is set at 20.5 million tons due to a higher than anticipated end season diversion of sugarcane for sugar production. Higher cane prices paid by millers to sugarcane farmers helped divert a larger share of cane to sugar mills vis-à-vis gur manufacturers.

Estimated sugar consumption for 2010/11 is increased to 25 million tons due to improved domestic supplies and expected strong domestic demand. The Indian economy is expected to grow at 8.5 percent. Bulk consumers such as soft drink manufacturers, bakeries, confectionary, hotel and restaurant consumers account for 60 percent of milled sugar demand. Local sweet shops consume most of the Khandsari sugar. Gur is mostly consumed in rural areas for household consumption and feed use.

Domestic sugar prices softened after reaching the peak in January 2010, due to improved production, and expectation of a bumper 2010/11 production. Currently, sugar prices in the major domestic wholesale market in India range from \$608 to \$640 per ton, a nearly 27 percent decline over the peak January 2010 prices. Sugar prices in the upcoming 2010/11 season are expected to soften further on prospects of improved domestic supplies. Although the end season gur prices are relatively firm due to lower end-season gur production, gur prices in will largely be guided by the sugar price movement.

Imports for 2010/11 are revised marginally lower to 1.0 million tons based on expected increased domestic supplies and lower domestic sugar prices. Despite improved supplies, exports during 2010/11 will be limited to quota countries.

Forced by severe domestic shortages and abnormally high sugar prices since the beginning of 2009, the government took several measures to relax import restrictions to augment domestic supplies. Currently, duty free imports of raw sugar and white sugar are allowed up to December 31, 2010. Imported sugar (both raw and white) is also exempted from the levy sugar obligation

and the market quota release system, applicable to domestic sugar. However with domestic sugar prices softening, the local sugar industry is pressuring the government to re-impose import duties on white and raw sugar, and revert back to the old import policy regime. Currently, the government does not allow exports of sugar.

Thailand

Estimated sugar production for 2010/11 is revised down 300,000 tons from the May forecast to 6.87 million tons, and down slightly (0.8 percent) from the previous year's output of 6.93 million tons. Output is reduced due to unfavorable weather and harvest will be delayed by a month commencing in December. Sugarcane will continue to be used primarily for sugar production. Less than one percent of sugarcane production is used for ethanol production.

Sugar exports for 2009/10 are revised up to 5.9 million tons, (11.4 percent from the previous year) due to attractive export prices driven by tight sugar supplies of major producing countries, particularly India. Sugar exports for 2010/11 have been revised down to 4.7 million tons, a drop of 20 percent from the previous year, in anticipation of tight exportable supplies.

Sugar stocks for 2009/10 are revised down due to a significant increase in sugar exports. Sugar stocks will likely continue to decline in anticipation of reduced production and record exports in 2009/10. Domestic consumption will continue to increase driven by economic recovery.

Current year market prices of sugarcane will likely be 10 percent higher than last year. In May 2010, the Thai Government approved a 22 percent increase in sugar production by increasing sugarcane crushing capacity from 0.9 to 1.1 million tons per day. The government issued permits for building 47 to 53 mills. This is the first time the government has allowed an increase in capacity and plants.

China

Estimated 2010/11 sugar cane area is placed at 1.78 million hectares, up four percent from last year. According to industry sources, an extended dry season this year delayed planting and reduced planted area.

Sugarcane area is estimated to account for 87 percent of the total sugar crop area (sugar beets make up the remaining portion). Guangxi remains the dominant sugar cane producing province, followed by Yunnan, Guangdong, and Hainan provinces. For 2009/10, Guangxi's output comprised 65 percent of China's total sugar production.

Total sugar production for 2010/11 is forecast at 12.7 million tons, up 10 percent from the previous year. Cane and beet sugar production are projected at 11.7 million tons and 950,000 tons, up 8 percent and 45 percent respectively due to a rise in acreage. Guangxi, Yunnan, Guangdong, Hainan and Xinjiang are the top 5 producing provinces, and account for approximately 95 percent of total sugar output.

Total sugar production for 2009/10 is estimated at 11.5 million tons, 14 percent lower than last year primarily due to poor weather. Due to the shortfall in beet and cane production, the crushing season was about one month shorter than normal. According to industry contacts, a normal crushing season spans 120 days.

Sugar consumption for 2010/11 is forecast at 15.1 million tons (raw value), two percent higher than last year. The processed food and beverage sectors and catering services are the principal consumers, with a growth rate expected to exceed 10 percent annually. The food processing, beverage, and pharmaceutical industries account for 65 percent of total sugar consumption, while 35 percent is at the household or food service level. In 2009/10 natural sugar consumption was approximately 11 Kg (raw value) per capita.

Imports for 2010/11 are forecast at 1.8 million tons (300,000 tons higher than last year), a new record since China joined the WTO in 2001. Although sugar cane and beet production for 2010/11 will increase, carry-in stock levels dropped by 50 percent because of poor production in 2009/10. As a result, due to lower total domestic supplies, increased imports are needed to meet rising consumption demands.

Imports usually arrive in China after the crushing season ends and the domestic price starts to increase. Before making a purchase, many private traders take into account the timing of state sugar reserve auctions. These auctions set a price ceiling on domestic sugar prices, which can make sugar imports less price competitive.

Since 2005, the quota and tariff rate have remained unchanged. The tariff rate quota (TRQ) is 1.95 million tons, with an in-quota-tariff of 15 percent. The out-of-quota tariff rate is 50 percent. As stipulated in China's WTO accession agreement, 30 percent of the TRQ (585,000 tons) is reserved for non-state trading enterprises and the remaining 70 percent is assigned to state trading enterprises.

Ending stocks for 2010/11 are forecast at 1.2 million tons (raw value), down 700,000 tons from the previous marketing year. Increased production is not expected to offset the drop in stocks. Because the TRQ is expected to be almost fully maximized this year, stocks are unlikely to be rebuilt unless the government temporarily does not enforce the out-of-quota tariff.

Stocks include state reserves and those held by the industrial, commercial, and distribution sectors. Under normal storage conditions, raw sugar can be stored for up to five years and refined sugar can be stored for up to 15 months (this still meets Chinese sanitary requirements).

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World Centrifugal Sugar Production, Supply and Distribution - (Oct/Sept Marketing Year)
1,000 Metric Tons, Raw Value

Country Mktg Year	Beginning Stocks	Total Sugar Production	Total Imports	Total Supply	Total Exports	Total Use	Ending Stocks
SUG - North America							
Canada							
2008/09	346	50	1,350	1,746	60	1,330	356
2009/10	356	125	1,300	1,781	70	1,350	361
2010/11	361	125	1,300	1,786	70	1,350	366
Mexico							
2008/09	1,975	5,260	160	7,395	1,367	5,404	624
2009/10	624	5,115	861	6,600	773	4,854	973
2010/11	973	5,450	225	6,648	938	4,735	975
United States							
2008/09	1,510	6,833	2,796	11,139	123	9,624	1,392
2009/10	1,392	7,208	2,943	11,543	191	9,898	1,454
2010/11	1,454	7,607	2,058	11,119	136	10,033	950
Total SUG - North America							
2008/09	3,831	12,143	4,306	20,280	1,550	16,358	2,372
2009/10	2,372	12,448	5,104	19,924	1,034	16,102	2,788
2010/11	2,788	13,182	3,583	19,553	1,144	16,118	2,291
SUG - Caribbean							
Cuba							
2008/09	333	1,340	130	1,803	750	710	343
2009/10	343	1,100	122	1,565	725	700	140
2010/11	140	1,100	110	1,350	500	700	150
Dominican Republic							
2008/09	35	510	12	557	217	330	10
2009/10	10	520	70	600	244	332	24
2010/11	24	500	30	554	202	335	17
Other SUG - Caribbean							
2008/09	134	232	449	815	206	468	141
2009/10	141	183	440	764	167	469	128
2010/11	128	184	452	764	158	477	129
Total SUG - Caribbean							
2008/09	502	2,082	591	3,175	1,173	1,508	494
2009/10	494	1,803	632	2,929	1,136	1,501	292
2010/11	292	1,784	592	2,668	860	1,512	296
SUG - Central America							
Guatemala							
2008/09	609	2,381	0	2,990	1,654	744	592
2009/10	592	2,415	0	3,007	1,654	807	546
2010/11	546	2,474	0	3,020	1,680	750	590
Other SUG - Central America							
2008/09	384	2,084	2	2,470	1,004	1,108	358
2009/10	358	2,167	11	2,536	1,028	1,148	360
2010/11	360	2,104	124	2,588	1,006	1,183	399
Total SUG - Central America							
2008/09	993	4,465	2	5,460	2,658	1,852	950
2009/10	950	4,582	11	5,543	2,682	1,955	906
2010/11	906	4,578	124	5,608	2,686	1,933	989
SUG - South America							
Brazil							
2008/09	215	31,850	0	32,065	21,550	11,650	-1,135
2009/10	-1,135	36,400	0	35,265	24,300	11,800	-835
2010/11	-835	39,400	0	38,565	26,850	12,000	-285

World Centrifugal Sugar Production, Supply and Distribution - (Oct/Sept Marketing Year) (Continued)
1,000 Metric Tons, Raw Value

Country Mktg Year	Beginning Stocks	Total Sugar Production	Total Imports	Total Supply	Total Exports	Total Use	Ending Stocks
Colombia							
2008/09	170	2,277	139	2,586	585	1,585	416
2009/10	416	2,200	40	2,656	730	1,605	321
2010/11	321	2,200	40	2,561	740	1,625	196
Argentina							
2008/09	105	2,420	21	2,546	580	1,740	226
2009/10	226	2,230	10	2,466	760	1,740	-34
2010/11	-34	2,290	5	2,261	340	1,770	151
Other SUG - South America							
2008/09	1,313	3,336	1,487	6,136	512	4,104	1,520
2009/10	1,520	3,482	1,513	6,515	541	4,386	1,588
2010/11	1,588	3,506	1,464	6,558	475	4,479	1,604
Total SUG - South America							
2008/09	1,803	39,883	1,647	43,333	23,227	19,079	1,027
2009/10	1,027	44,312	1,563	46,902	26,331	19,531	1,040
2010/11	1,040	47,396	1,509	49,945	28,405	19,874	1,666
SUG - Western Europe							
EU-27							
2008/09	3,130	14,014	3,180	20,324	1,332	16,760	2,232
2009/10	2,232	16,830	2,620	21,682	2,407	16,900	2,375
2010/11	2,375	14,800	3,575	20,750	1,460	17,000	2,290
Other SUG - Western Europe							
2008/09	330	275	389	994	45	640	309
2009/10	309	300	395	1,004	4	651	349
2010/11	349	275	382	1,006	45	641	320
Total SUG - Western Europe							
2008/09	3,460	14,289	3,569	21,318	1,377	17,400	2,541
2009/10	2,541	17,130	3,015	22,686	2,411	17,551	2,724
2010/11	2,724	15,075	3,957	21,756	1,505	17,641	2,610
SUG - Eastern Europe							
Russia							
2008/09	550	3,481	2,150	6,181	200	5,500	481
2009/10	481	3,313	2,380	6,174	100	5,694	380
2010/11	380	2,850	3,050	6,280	100	5,736	444
Ukraine							
2008/09	580	1,710	78	2,368	37	2,100	231
2009/10	231	1,380	480	2,091	5	1,950	136
2010/11	136	2,000	360	2,496	5	2,200	291
Other SUG - Eastern Europe							
2008/09	501	1,321	1,295	3,117	1,012	1,738	367
2009/10	367	1,275	1,413	3,055	833	1,781	441
2010/11	441	1,272	1,361	3,074	792	1,784	498
Total SUG - Eastern Europe							
2008/09	1,631	6,512	3,523	11,666	1,249	9,338	1,079
2009/10	1,079	5,968	4,273	11,320	938	9,425	957
2010/11	957	6,122	4,771	11,850	897	9,720	1,233
SUG - Africa							
South Africa							
2008/09	227	2,350	168	2,745	1,185	1,530	30
2009/10	30	2,265	200	2,495	830	1,595	70
2010/11	70	2,140	250	2,460	800	1,625	35
Other SUG - Africa							
2008/09	2,602	6,029	7,446	16,077	2,854	10,410	2,813

World Centrifugal Sugar Production, Supply and Distribution - (Oct/Sept Marketing Year) (Continued)
1,000 Metric Tons, Raw Value

Country Mktg Year	Beginning Stocks	Total Sugar Production	Total Imports	Total Supply	Total Exports	Total Use	Ending Stocks
2009/10	2,813	5,904	7,201	15,918	2,628	10,823	2,467
2010/11	2,467	6,376	7,436	16,279	2,794	10,999	2,486
Total SUG - Africa							
2008/09	2,829	8,379	7,614	18,822	4,039	11,940	2,843
2009/10	2,843	8,169	7,401	18,413	3,458	12,418	2,537
2010/11	2,537	8,516	7,686	18,739	3,594	12,624	2,521
SUG - MiddleEast							
Turkey							
2008/09	405	2,100	5	2,510	5	2,000	505
2009/10	505	2,531	5	3,041	40	2,500	501
2010/11	501	2,400	5	2,906	40	2,800	66
Egypt							
2008/09	544	1,612	1,382	3,538	100	2,748	690
2009/10	690	1,820	978	3,488	0	2,629	859
2010/11	859	1,830	1,120	3,809	0	2,800	1,009
Other SUG - MiddleEast							
2008/09	2,284	735	8,140	11,159	3,061	6,531	1,567
2009/10	1,567	1,010	8,418	10,995	2,866	6,576	1,553
2010/11	1,553	1,020	8,341	10,914	2,916	6,716	1,282
Total SUG - MiddleEast							
2008/09	3,233	4,447	9,527	17,207	3,166	11,279	2,762
2009/10	2,762	5,361	9,401	17,524	2,906	11,705	2,913
2010/11	2,913	5,250	9,466	17,629	2,956	12,316	2,357
SUG - Asia - Oceania							
Japan							
2008/09	340	950	1,452	2,742	2	2,375	365
2009/10	365	1,030	1,342	2,737	2	2,230	505
2010/11	505	845	1,355	2,705	2	2,242	461
India							
2008/09	9,150	15,950	2,786	27,886	176	24,200	3,510
2009/10	3,510	20,538	4,110	28,158	5	23,500	4,653
2010/11	4,653	25,700	1,000	31,353	20	25,000	6,333
China							
2008/09	3,965	13,317	1,077	18,359	75	14,500	3,784
2009/10	3,784	11,500	1,500	16,784	94	14,790	1,900
2010/11	1,900	12,670	1,800	16,370	55	15,100	1,215
Thailand							
2008/09	2,651	7,200	0	9,851	5,295	2,000	2,556
2009/10	2,556	6,930	0	9,486	5,900	2,100	1,486
2010/11	1,486	6,870	0	8,356	4,700	2,200	1,456
Australia							
2008/09	400	4,814	45	5,259	3,522	1,250	487
2009/10	487	4,600	76	5,163	3,600	1,250	313
2010/11	313	4,800	80	5,193	3,750	1,250	193
Pakistan							
2008/09	1,163	3,512	125	4,800	75	4,175	550
2009/10	550	3,420	1,030	5,000	70	4,200	730
2010/11	730	3,270	1,200	5,200	70	4,280	850
Indonesia							
2008/09	590	2,053	2,197	4,840	0	4,500	340
2009/10	340	1,910	2,600	4,850	0	4,400	450
2010/11	450	1,911	2,910	5,271	0	4,900	371
Philippines							
2008/09	547	2,100	0	2,647	225	2,100	322

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1,000 Metric Tons, Raw Value

Country Mktg Year	Beginning Stocks	Total Sugar Production	Total Imports	Total Supply	Total Exports	Total Use	Ending Stocks
2009/10	322	2,000	250	2,572	178	2,150	244
2010/11	244	1,900	250	2,394	142	2,150	102
Other SUG - Asia - Oceania							
2008/09	2,242	1,836	8,826	12,904	1,071	9,869	1,964
2009/10	1,964	1,758	9,101	12,823	1,062	10,053	1,708
2010/11	1,708	2,030	8,876	12,614	1,038	10,063	1,513
Total SUG - Asia - Oceania							
2008/09	21,048	51,732	16,508	89,288	10,441	64,969	13,878
2009/10	13,878	53,686	20,009	87,573	10,911	64,673	11,989
2010/11	11,989	59,996	17,471	89,456	9,777	67,185	12,494
World							
World							
2008/09	39,330	143,932	47,287	230,549	48,880	153,723	27,946
2009/10	27,946	153,459	51,409	232,814	51,807	154,861	26,146
2010/11	26,146	161,899	49,159	237,204	51,824	158,923	26,457
Unrecorded							
2008/09				1,593			
2009/10				398			
2010/11				2,665			

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Footnotes

- 1/ The U.S. PS&D estimates conform to those released in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) 'miscellaneous' category allocated to domestic consumption. The U.S. PS&D includes Puerto Rico.
- 2/ The European Union (EU) includes French Overseas Departments of Reunion, Guadeloupe, and Martinique. EU trade data does not include intra-EU trade. Beginning 2004/05 the PS&D reflects the EU enlargement by accession of the following ten countries. Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta, and Cyprus. As a result of this enlargement, from 15 countries to 25 countries, the ending stock figure for 2003/04 will not carry over to the beginning stock figure for 2004/05. Data prior to 2004/05 reflects the countries comprising the EU at that time. The PSD for the EU-25 ends with marketing year 2005/06. The series picks up with the EU-27 beginning marketing year 2006/07. The EU-27 contains two new countries Bulgaria and Romania.
- 3/ Includes traditional Eastern European countries, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Balkans, Baltic's, Armenia, and Georgia. Beginning 2004/05 the following countries are removed from this list upon their accession to the EU: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Note that data for Poland is zeroed out for 2004/05 because it is included in the European Union.
- 4/ Includes all of continental Africa except Egypt.
- 5/ Includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.
- 6/ Indian data includes production of khandsari sugar, a native type, semi-white centrifugal sugar. Estimated output of Khandsari sugar in thousand of metric tons (raw value equivalent) is as follows: 2002/03 - 590; 2003/04 - 620; 2004/05 - 683; 2005/06 - 683; 2006/07 - 500; 2007/08 - 425; 2008/09 - 435; 2009/10 - 343; 2010/11 - 420
- 7/ Includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- 8/ The 'Unrecorded' category is a balancing mechanism to equalize world exports and imports. It is assumed there is a certain quantity of trade that will not be recorded, with the result that imports and exports will differ by a certain amount.

To view country crop years click on the following URL:
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/hdp/sugar/tmarketingyears.pdf>